Queen candidates enthusiastic about chance to represent NEO

Story by Mason Lovelace

The crowning of the homecoming queen is an honored tradition at NEO A&M and halftime of this weekend’s game will feature the coronation of this year’s queen.

The old and honored tradition continues to thrive as twenty-nine of NEO’s most promising young ladies eagerly await the highly anticipated verdict.

Christen Stark, chair of the homecoming queen committee, described this year’s candidates as a “Great bunch of girls that proudly represent the campus.”

Candidates will be judged on numerous criteria over the course of an active and festive week.

Social Work Club nominee Heather Cox expressed her enthusiasm in an interview earlier this week. “I was so excited when I found out I was a nominee. Homecoming is all about everyone coming together for the good of our school. It’s an honor to be considered for such an important title.”

AG Ed/Pre Vet nominee Rachel Chilas said, “Homecoming gives everyone something wonderful to share.

“In regards to her nomination, Chilas said “I just can’t wait to show everyone my school spirit.”

Pictured Queen Candidates

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<td>Sable Wise</td>
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NEO Press Release

Twenty-nine young women have been selected to represent their club or organization as a candidate for Homecoming Queen at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. At half-time of the Homecoming game on Saturday, October 15, the college will crown the 2005 Homecoming Queen. The NEO Golden Norsemen will kick-off against the Binn College Buccaneers at 3 p.m. on Red Robertson Field.

The following are candidates for the 2005 NEO Homecoming Queen:

Rachel Chilas is the Queen Representative for the Agriculture Education/Pre-vet Club. Chilas is from Townsend, Del., and is the daughter of Arthur and Virginia Chilas. Chilas is a sociology major and plans to attend Oklahoma State University after she graduates from NEO. She is currently the vice president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Chilas is the Student Body Government representative, a College Ambassador and a member of the Social Work Club, Psychology Club and the Aggie Society.

Maggie Synar is the Queen Representative for the NEO A&M College Band. Originally from Grove, Synar is the daughter of Dr. Phil and Rebecca Synar. She plans to transfer to the University of Arkansas to complete her bachelor's degree in music. She is enjoying her first semester at NEO and has become active on campus as a member of the NEO Band.

Christina Clayton of Owasso represents the NEO A&M College Cheerleaders. She is the daughter of Eddie and Wendy Clayton. Clayton is an education major who plans to become a high school teacher. Clayton will transfer to the University of Tulsa upon her graduation from NEO. She is a member of the cheerleading squad, Student Body Government and Phi Theta Kappa. Clayton has been honored with a place on the Dean's Honor Roll.

Amber Harris is the queen candidate representing the Resident Life Council. A resident of Tulsa, Harris is the daughter of Crystal Allen and Christopher Harris. She is a mass communications major who plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to earn her bachelor's degree. Harris is a resident assistant and is a member of Student Support Services.

Shannon Garretson of Humansville, Mo., represents Phi Theta Kappa as their queen candidate. She is the daughter of Randy and Carolyn Garretson. Garretson is a forestry and wildlife major. Harris' goal is to find a job in conservation and attend Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. Garretson is the vice president of service for the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She is the vice president of the Forestry and Wildlife Club has a 4.0 grade point average and has been on the President's Honor Roll.

Ashley Dennis of Locust Grove is the queen candidate for the Forestry and Wildlife Club. Dennis is the daughter of Ricky and Mitzi Dennis. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University to further her studies in animal science. Dennis is a member of the Aggie Society and is the secretary for the Forestry and Wildlife Club.

Jennifer Boyd of Claremore represents the Wesley Foundation. She is the daughter of Todd Boyd and Don and Michele Brown. Boyd is a business major and intends to continue her education following her graduation from NEO by earning a bachelor's degree in business and agricultural science. Boyd is also a member of the Native American Student Association.

Diana Handshy is the queen candidate for the Student Nursing Association and is a nursing major. She is a resident of Columbus, Kan., and is the daughter of Bob and Cathy Handshy. Upon graduation, Handshy plans to work in a hospital emergency room. Handshy is an active nursing student and member of the Student Nursing Association.

Sarah Hill is the queen candidate representing for NEO Studio 13. Hill is a mass communications major from Amarillo, Texas. She is the daughter of Randy and Jollie Hill. After her graduation, Hill plans to continue her studies and receive her bachelor's degree then pursue a career in broadcast news. Hill is the SBG representative for NEO Studio 13 and is the vice president of Studio 13. Hill supports the rodeo team and films various events that occur on campus.

Candace Back represents the Ambassadors Club as their queen candidate. She is a resident of Osawatomie and is the daughter of Norm and Kathy Back. Back is a physical therapy assistant major. Following her graduation from NEO, she plans to continue her education and pursue a career in health care.

Brooke Evans of Pryor is the Queen Candidate for the NEO A&M College Nursing School. She is the daughter of Roy and Candy Evans. After her graduation, Evans will further her education while working in a hospital.

Heather Cox is the queen candidate for the Social Work Club as a social work major. A resident of Dewey, she is the daughter of Anita Cox. Cox plans to attend Oklahoma State University and continue her education in sociology. Cox is a member of the Social Work Club and is a resident assistant.

Crystal Nelson of Miami represents the Engineering Club. She is the daughter of Nancy Nelson. Nelson is a pre-engineering major with plans to attend Northeastern State University School of Optometry upon her NEO graduation.

Nelson is involved with several student organizations, including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Christian Student Fellowship and the Norse Stars.

Maria Settles of Stillwater is the queen candidate for the NEO A&M College Concert Choir. She is the daughter of Louisa Settles. After graduation, she plans to continue her education at a four-year institution. Settles is a member of the Meister Singers and the Masquers. She is the recipient of a vocal music scholarship and is a member of the Apostolic Assembly Church.

Cassie Mayfield of Miami is the queen candidate for the Psychology Club. She is the daughter of Mandy Mayfield. Mayfield is a psychology major and plans to complete her bachelor's degree at Pittsburg State University and eventually obtain her doctorate's degree. Mayfield is the President of the Psychology Club.

Amanda Jurek of Southwest City, Mo., represents the English Club. She is the daughter of John and Jackie Turner. Jurek is an English major and intends to continue her education at a four-year institution after her graduation from NEO. Jurek is a member of the English Club.

Lindsey Miller is the queen candidate for the Physical Therapy Assistant Club. A resident of Fairland, Miller is the wife of T.J. Miller. Miller is a physical therapy assistant major and wants to continue her education through the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa, where she plans to obtain her master's degree in physical therapy. Miller is a member of the Physical Therapy Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Who's Who Among National Junior Colleges and has been on the Dean's and President's Honor Roll.

Sharon Cody of Miami represents the Foreign Language Club. She is the wife of Robert Cody. She is the president of the
Foreign Language Club. Cody is an English major and plans to become an English instructor at the secondary or collegiate level.

Ciera Burrell of Tulsa is the queen representative for the African American Society. She is the daughter of Leon and Shyra Burrell. Burrell is a music major and intends to pursue a career in contemporary gospel. Burrell is a member of the NEO A&M College Choir, African American Society and the Step Team.

Megan Nading represents the Christian Student Fellowship organization. A resident of Muskogee, Nading is the daughter of Donnie and Patty Nading. Nading aspires to further her education at Julliard and would like to pursue a career on Broadway or in the movies. Nading is a member of Christian Student Fellowship, the NEO A&M College Choir, Student Body Government and Norse Stars. Nading is a member of the Northwest Assembly of God and was the Ottawa County Jr. Miss 2005.

Holly Kidd of Vinita is the queen candidate for the Norse Stars. She is the daughter of Ken and Tracie Kidd. Kidd is an early childhood education major. She plans to further her education at the University of Oklahoma to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Kidd is a member of the Norse Stars and the Child Development Club.

Sable Wise represents the NEO Student Body Government. Wise is a resident of Kellyville and is the daughter of Mel and Dee Wise. She is a business administration major. After graduation, she plans to attend Florida International University in Miami, Fla., and major in travel and tourism management. Wise is the Student Body Government Secretary and is a member of the cheerleading squad and Phi Theta Kappa.

Kara Renea Wooten is the queen representative for the College Republicans. Wooten is from Colcord and is the daughter of Kevin and Belle Wooten. She is a general education major. Wooten is a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Phi Theta Kappa and the NEO A&M College band. Wooten is the Student Body Government representative for the Baptist Collegiate Ministries and the president for the College Republicans.

Kace Dugan of Afton represents the History Club as their queen candidate. She is the daughter of Lora and Mark Dugan. Dugan is a physical therapy assistant major and plans to obtain a four-year degree and eventually a master's degree in health and physical education. Dugan is the co-secretary for the History Club and is a member of the Psychology Club and the Norse Stars.

Kassia Allen is the Queen Candidate for the Business Leaders of Tomorrow. Allen is originally from Bartlesville, Ark., and is the daughter of Kirby and Janet Allen. She is a business administration and marketing major. Allen plans to pursue a bachelor's degree and eventually a master's degree in accounting. Allen aspires to be a forensic accountant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She has been honored on the Dean's Honor Roll and is a member of the Business Leaders of Tomorrow and the College Republicans.

Amanda Gibe of Jay represents the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. She is the daughter of Eddie and Sheila Gibe. Gibe is a music major who, after her graduation, plans to pursue a bachelor's degree. Gibe is a member of the New Hope Youth Group, Transition Team at New Hope, the NEO A&M College choir and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Melissa Jean Mullen of Webb City, Mo., is the Queen representative for the Masquer's Club. She is the daughter of Clara and Dennis Ervin. Mullen is a theatre major with plans to transfer to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts upon her graduation from NEO. Mullen wishes to pursue a career in acting. She is a member of the Masquer's Club. Meister Singers, Norse Stars and the First Baptist Church.

The newly-elected Grove Student Body Officers are Karen Stout, Adm. Asst./Continuing Education, Wendy Jeffers, VP; Hanna Ritchie, Secretary; Josh Olingerhouse, President; David Johnston, Treasurer; Les Deichman, Advisor. (Courtesy of Les Deichman)

Grove SBG nominates first queen candidate

Story by Crystal Riley

The Grove branch of NEO's Student Body Government nominated Hanna Ritchie as their first ever Homecoming Queen candidate this year.

Ritchie is a full-time student at NEO Grove and also serves as the Grove SBG secretary this year.

"It is so neat having good student involvement this year at Grove!" Karen Stout, Administrative Assistant to the Coordinator of Continuing Education, said. "We are really excited to be expanding our borders."

The Grove Student Body Government meets in the student area of the campus. Meetings are Thursdays at noon, and anyone is more than welcome to attend.

If you have any questions about Grove Student Body Government, you may contact their office at (918) 787-5475.

Three decades of nursing students to be honored at NEO Homecoming

NEO Press Release

In 1975, the first group of nursing graduates walked across the stage during NEO's commencement ceremonies to receive their diplomas. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and the Nursing Department would like to honor those students who graduated on that day 30 years-ago and all those who have followed them.

All graduates of the NEO Nursing Program will be recognized during the Homecoming game on Saturday, October 15. The NEO Golden Norsemen will kick off against Blinn Community College at 3 p.m.

An announcement will be made during the game, and all graduates of the NEO Nursing Program will be asked to stand for recognition.

Greg Smith, president of the NEO Student Nursing Association, said each of the hundreds of graduates from the NEO Nursing Program has received an education worthy of such acknowledgement and praise.

"This all began with those students who graduated three decades ago," Smith said. "We invite each of those students and all who came after them to join us at the Homecoming game."
Ask Crystal...

Advice by Crystal Riley

Dear Crystal,

I'm starting to develop a scary extra bulge around my middle and my favorite jeans are getting a little on the skin tight side. I'm starting to worry that I'm going to be yet another college weight gain story. Got any advice?

Signed, Fearful of Freshman 15

Dear Fearful of Freshman 15,

Research shows that as of 2004, 24.5% of the nation's adults were classified as being obese. That is a staggering number and the rates are only climbing.

It's obvious that you, like many others, don't want to be a part of that 24.5 percent.

A few things you have to keep in mind are that a college student leads a very hectic lifestyle. From social outings to classes to part-time work, things can be very difficult and you may never seem to find the time to focus on you.

But if you want to lose weight, the key is a healthy diet. USDA outlines a healthy diet as being one that contains high levels of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and fat-free dairy products. Their diet also contains lean meats, fish, poultry, beans and nuts. Stay away from saturated fats, cholesterol, salt and added sugars.

Plus, EXERCISE! There is no wrong way to do this one. Walking, bike riding, aerobics, weight training - all of these can contribute to weight loss. Visit the Fitness Center located in the SAC; they offer aerobics classes and machines that can get you looking fit and feeling fantastic.

Just don't forget; the only one who can change your weight is you.

If you have a question or need advice, just Ask Crystal by sending an e-mail to noreanwind@email.edu.

Poet's Corner

Diadem of Purity

By Mason Lovelace

A name of whispers among angels of grace
A magnanimous blossom from piety's vase
Adorned in vestments of azure theme
Emerald eyes convey porcelain dreams

Christened with majesty of eminence serene
Twillight's goddess unto moonlight's queen
And with a heart of tranquility your friendship does give
Compassion eternal; a reason to live

Honey please,
just calm down.
Let me explain....
A Dignified Rant

Opinion by Mason Lovelace

All students are used to hearing sappy, overused quips about how they are now part of a bigger family and ... Despite sounding cliché, a college is a family. It is the duty of the school to act as guardians for the students it thrives upon. There is a point, however, when protection and regulation becomes overprotection and inefficiency. Such is the case with NEO's evening meal schedule.

I'm sorry, but 4:30-6:00 seems ridiculous to me. I know the duty of a child is to rock the boat of authority, but come on. Who eats dinner at 4:30? Most people work until 5:00. Why not 5:00-7:00? That, at least, falls into the ballpark of reason. 4:30 is more like dinner, lunch, or some other kind of lunch/dinner hybrid trying to live up to the greatness of brunch. Except this hybrid doesn't come with a slice of cantaloupe at the end.

Jokes aside, if you sit down and look at the facts, it is surprising that anyone who works until 5:00 can even make it to dinner at the currently scheduled time. By the time a student gets off work, drives back to campus, parks, and freshens up, there isn't much time left for eating. I talked with approximately sixty students. Less than 10 claimed to even eat dinner in the cafeteria. That seems pretty outrageous to me.

I'm curious as to what the average dinner time of the faculty is. I guarantee most would fall after 6:00. Are students that unruly or immature that we are forced to eat dinner while the High School athletic teams are still practicing a couple of blocks over? I guess so if Ned Flanders is guardian.

Student Support Services Scholarship fund-raiser

SSS is establishing a scholarship fund for SSS students in need. The money will be awarded to SSS students who have met the criteria established by the SSS Scholarship Committee.

Homecoming Week we will be selling embossed silicone wristbands in support of NEO at a table in the Student Union. The wristbands will be blue with embossed writing "Once a Norseman..." and will cost only $5.00 apiece.

Please support this worthy cause and show some school spirit at the same time.

For additional information call Linda Wilson at 540-6263.

Graduating Soon?
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Complimentary Meal with Academic Advisers
Rodeo team competes at Pratt rodeo

Story by Aggie News

NEO's rodeo team traveled to Pratt Community College October 7 - 9 to compete at their first rodeo of the season.

Three team members represented NEO in the short round on Sunday.

Those making to Sunday's competitions were Callie Cummings in breakaway roping, Austin Davis in calf roping, and Coleman Proctor in team roping.

Coach Jason Stewart felt the rodeo was a good learning experience for his team.

"They tried really hard, but they just came up short," Stewart said. "The kids need to work on dealing with the pressure of competing and they'll get a lot better."

The team now is turning their attention to their next rodeo - here at NEO.

NEO will be host to potentially one of the largest intercollegiate rodeos during homecoming weekend, October 14 - 16.

The team is gearing up for this event and are eager to do well on their home turf.

"I'm expecting the team to do really well this weekend," Stewart said. "It our rodeo here on our home turf and I think we'll be ready for it."

Between life and rodeo

Story by Shawn Smith

Rodeo is simply a game to many. For those outside the sport, it is strictly a form of entertainment - a game for the young and reckless to test their strength and courage.

More than ever, people say that rodeo is not a way to make a living nor is it a respectable way to provide for a family.

What they fail to realize is that in today's society, many of our rodeo athletes aren't just top all-around competitors, they are also top all-around people.

Those who participate in rodeo provide a much-loved form of entertainment that takes our society back to its roots and offers a glimpse of what people were like when life was much simpler.

Almost 36% of Americans have attended a rodeo at some point in their lives. The top rodeo professionals can earn millions of dollars and many competitors make a living on par with doctors, lawyers and so on.

So remember, whether at the college or professional level, those who rodeo put their life in danger every time they enter the arena - and they do it not only for themselves, but for your entertainment.

As the NEO rodeo team prepares for their rodeo this weekend, they would all surely appreciate your support.

NEO to host intercollegiate rodeo

NEO Press Release

More than 600 cowboys and cowgirls are expected to participate in the NEO Rodeo on Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16 at the NEO Indoor Arena. The college rodeo is sanctioned by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The last time NEO hosted the rodeo in 2003, it was the largest NiRA rodeo in history.

On Oct. 14, slack will begin at 12 p.m. and the performances will start at 7 p.m. On Oct. 15, slack will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the performances are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Performances will be held on Oct. 16 at 1 p.m.

Events held during the rodeo will be team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, saddle bronc, bareback, girls' barrel racing, goat tying and breakaway roping. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the NEO Agriculture Department for $4 or will be available at the door for $5. For more information on tickets, call (918) 540-6268.

NEO is located in the Central Plains Region of NiRA, which is arguably one of the toughest regions because of its talented participants, said Shannon Cunningham, faculty member for the Agriculture Department.

"Over the years, NEO has sent numerous contestants to the College National Finals Rodeo, so we have some great talent right here in our own community," Cunningham said. "The NEO Rodeo always promises to be a great show!"
Room decorations underway

Story by Crystal Riley

In preparation for Homecoming, NEO is holding their annual Room/Float Decorating Competition this week.

The Queen candidates for each group or organization has to either decorate a room, hallway or float during Homecoming week. Their respective clubs must make a decision on which they would like to decorate. “We have had some groups choose to decorate a float, but most have decided to decorate a hallway or a room,” Shirley Patterson, administrative assistant of Student Affairs, said. The rooms must be decorated by Thursday, October 13th. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, and a winner will be announced shortly thereafter. One example of a group will be decorating a room is the Engineers’ Club. The Queen candidate representing this organization is Crystal Nelson, and her club will be in charge of decorating the first floor of Cunningham Hall.

If you would like any information about this competition or what rooms are to be decorated, you may contact Shirley Patterson in her office on the first floor of Dyer Hall or call her at 540-6242.

Phi Theta Kappa inducts new members

Story by Crystal Riley

Phi Theta Kappa is just one of the many academic organizations offered by NEO. Sponsored by Brenda Lucas, this organization is offered to students who have a 3.5 GPA or better and have completed 12 credit hours.

The students who become part of Phi Theta Kappa do have a $55 joining fee, but opportunities for scholarships and other programs at transfer colleges come from being associated with this honor society for 2-year colleges. Students also receive 10% off all products at the NEO Bookstore.


SSS group enjoys Tulsa field trip

Story by Marilyn Jeffries

“Is everybody in?” we heard someone say, “Yes, we are all here.” Then away we went to explore the OU campus in Tulsa and learn more about health care opportunities. Mark Shields was there to greet us and answer all our curious questions. This was informative to those who were interested in this field.

Next of course, everyone was hungry and anxious to graze at the table. We were going to dine at the restaurant in the Whistlers Museum of Art, and I myself was excited at the very word “art” and we all were excited to see and hear the word food. The dining, the restaurant, the waitresses, and the company were nothing but “Divine.”

Then the “WOW” came. The Whistlers Art Museum. If you love art, you will love the Whistlers Museum in Tulsa. Lovely and breathtaking and really hard to move on to the next art piece while trying to take it all in.

Then suddenly, while looking at the art your eyes wander and gaze out the window at the most beautiful and artful way of creating a garden. We had two of the girls check it out and found the sprinkler system working very well (Tiffany and Velvie). Must I say they had to do some high powered running?

We all had a wonderful time, thanks to Student Support Services, and the great people that run it. Linda Wilson went with us and was our chauffeur. Linda is Director of SSS. Then Bobbie Pennington as career counselor, Nancy Mayer as Administrative Assistant, Jenny Rice as Assistant Director Learning Specialist.

Thank you Ladies for making this an awesome trip. I am looking forward to the next special time with SSS.
The Tradition Continues: NEO Homecoming 2005

An exciting week of spirited Homecoming activities continues through Saturday.

NEO Press Release

Long-standing traditions will continue at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College during the week of October 10 when NEO will celebrate Homecoming 2005. The activities will culminate on Saturday, October 15 when the NEO Golden Norsemen will go head to head against the Blinn College Buccaneers.

The community is invited to join NEO students, staff and faculty in the festivities throughout the week. The remainder of the Homecoming week schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, Oct. 13** - At 4:30 p.m., students will participate in a pep-rally on the NEO mall and compete against one another to see who can showcase the best school spirit during a Yell Contest. Following the pep-rally, students will vote on the queen candidate who they feel should be awarded Miss Norse Spirit, the results of which will be announced at the Homecoming game. Also after the pep-rally will be the NEO Homecoming Sock Hop in the Student Activity Center beginning at 8 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 14** - The Queen Pageant will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Building. The queen candidates will be judged by Pat Jones of Miami, Mary Kemp of Southlake, Texas, and Bobbie Jo Lipscomb-Dye of Branson, Mo., all former NEO Homecoming Queens. Queen candidates were selected by NEO clubs and organizations.

**Saturday, Oct. 15** - Homecoming Day festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with the NEO Development Foundation Alumni and Friends Banquet in the Student Union Ballroom. Carol Calcagno will be honored with the Award of Merit and Dixie Woodall and Roy James Wilson will receive the Outstanding Alumni Award.

The Homecoming Parade will begin in downtown Miami at 1 p.m. Pre-game activities will start at 2 p.m. at Red Robertson Field and will include autograph sessions with NEO athletes and games for children. Kick-off against the Blinn College Buccaneers will be at 3 p.m. The Homecoming Royalty will be crowned at half-time of the game.

The college will also resurrect the tradition of selling mum corsages for Homecoming Day. The corsages were a popular item for women of the community to don in celebration of the NEO Homecoming during the 1970s. The college will sell the mum corsages for $8 with the proceeds going toward the Homecoming activities and to benefit the hurricane victims. To order a corsage in advance, call Misty Snider at (918) 540-6291 by Thursday, October 6. A limited number of corsages will be available for purchase at the Homecoming game.

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March of Dimes
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These adorable special edition March of Dimes Bean Bag Bears make great gifts

Contact Teresa Thompson at 918-540-6246

Give someone special a real treat this year, And help save lives at the same time.
The 2005-2006 NEO Cheer Squad is gearing up for a year of spirit and competition. (Photo by Christen Stark)

NEO Cheer Squad Named Among 'Top 10 Scholarship Schools' in the Nation

NEO cheerleading program earns national recognition from "American Cheer"

NEO Press Release

Go, Go NEO! The Cheerleading Squad at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College was named among the ‘Top 10 Scholarship Schools’ in the October 2005 issue of the nationally known magazine "American Cheer." The article in "American Cheer" featured 50 institutions cheerleaders should consider if they are interested in competing at the college level. NEO was named among them in the scholarship listing.

"It is such an honor to be listed as one of the 'Top 10 Scholarship Schools,'" said Pat Hecksher, head cheerleading coach. "American Cheer" has a huge following, and I have already been contacted by several cheerleaders across the country who are interested in cheering at NEO."

Hecksher said the magazine is considered the 'Sports Illustrated' for cheerleading and often features articles on safety, pyramids, nutrition and exercise. Other colleges featured among the 'Top 10 Scholarship Schools' include the University of Delaware, University of Hawaii and University of Kentucky.

NEO's cheerleading scholarship provides a tuition and room waiver, as well as a book scholarship if students meet certain academic criterion. All NEO cheerleaders receive the scholarship.

Twenty-eight students, nine males and 19 females, are currently members of the Cheerleading Squad, Hecksher said. All male cheerleaders have played high school sports, many of whom were named to the All-State baseball, football or wrestling teams. Hecksher said she considers her female cheerleaders to be the best across the state, several having been named All-State Cheerleaders.

Exposure at national competitions, such as the College National Championships in Daytona, Fla., has helped the NEO squad increase its recognition, Hecksher said. The team plans to compete in the Nations Best College Championships in Topeka, Kan., in January. At each competition, the squad attempts more difficult stunts and pyramids, Hecksher said.

"I have seen great routines performed by my squads in front of 2,000 people," Hecksher said. "It can be very intimidating, but this year we will really prove what we are capable of on the competition floor."

The Norse Stars, NEO's dance team, accompanies the cheerleaders to each of the competitions. Since 2001, the group has finished third at the Nations Best College Dance Championships and seventh in the NCA College Dance National Championships.

Hecksher said she is pleased with the character, athletic ability and work ethic present on both her teams. The Cheerleading Squad and Norse Stars practice for 10 hours a week and condition after each practice.

"I hope that the audience appreciates the hours of hard work that the students put into this each day," Hecksher said. "What they perform is only a 2 ½ minute routine. What it takes to get them ready is 2 ½ months of practice."
Teacher of the Month: Steve McCurly

NEO Public Relations

Steve McCurly was nominated to be this month’s Teacher-of-the-Month. McCurly received an associate’s degree from NEO in 1978. He continued his education at the University of Central Oklahoma, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in 1982. In 1984, McCurly completed his master’s degree at Oklahoma State University.

McCurly has been employed at NEO since 1991. This year marks the 30th year that McCurly has been involved in theater. He has been connected with more than 250 plays, approximately 70 of which were performed at NEO.

Since playing a supporting role in Arsenic and Old Lace performed at the Miami Little Theatre in 1975, McCurly has had a passion for the theater. "I am in the world of ‘Let’s pretend;’ he said. ‘It is all about how to tell the story.’”

When he sees the same concept come to life inside the minds of his students, McCurly said that is when he knows he is doing his job well. McCurly said of the dozens of NEO productions he has participated in, his favorites remain comedies. Two in particular, Noises Off and Lend Me A Tenor, were enjoyable for McCurly because of their challenges and the casts of students who were able to overcome them.

The passion to perform for an audience has also crept into other parts of McCurly’s life. Each December he plays a role that has become well known on campus—that of Santa Claus. "Playing Santa Claus is the other great passion I have in my life,” he said. "Again, it is about playing pretend and telling a story. The reward is getting to see the joy in children’s hearts.”

Upcoming NEO Events

October 13  Pep-rally; cook out, vote for Miss Norse Spirit, NEO mall 4:30 p.m.
October 13  NEO Homecoming Sock Hop, Student Activity Center 8:00 p.m.
October 14  Queen Pageant, Fine Arts Center 7:30 p.m.
October 14-16  NEO A&M College Rodeo
October 15  Homecoming Day!
  Development Foundation Alumni and Friends Banquet, Ballroom 11:00 p.m.
  Homecoming Parade, downtown Miami 1:00 p.m.
  Pre-game show, autograph session, children's games 2:00 p.m.
  Homecoming Game vs. Blinn 3:00 p.m.
  Homecoming Royalty Coronation Half-time
October 21  Fall Break - No Classes!
October 22  Football Game @ Kilgore, Texas 3:00 p.m.
October 26  SSS Brown Bag Lunch - "Whose Time Is it Anyway" 12:00 p.m.
October 27  Fine Arts Day
October 27  SSS Power Lunch - Research Sites 12:00 p.m.
October 27-29  Theatre production of ‘I’m Not Rappaport,’ Fine Arts Center 7:30 p.m.
October 29  Football vs. Tyler, Texas 2:00 p.m.
October 30  Theatre production of ‘I’m Not Rappaport,’ Fine Arts Center 2:00 p.m.
October 30  Fall Concert, Fine Arts Center 7:00 p.m.

** Important Reminder**

Students need to check their NEO email account to receive information from the Admissions, Business, and Financial Aid Office. Each student’s statement of account will be available on-line the first of each month. The student can find out how to access this information by checking their NEO email account. Academic Warnings and Drops are being sent to the NEO email account and the students should frequently check as these are sent daily.
The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

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